

agencies for movement of foodgrains from FCI godowns to the schools at the rate of actual cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50/- per quintal. Therefore, no State-wise/District-wise allocation of funds are made under the scheme. Year-wise expenditure incurred during the last three years is given as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Expenditure
1997-98	1070.38
1998-99	1600.15
1999-2000	1500.00

Ragging in Universities and Colleges

†1480. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that mental and physical torture of new comers due to ragging has started in most of the Universities and Colleges in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take effective and concrete steps to curb the menace of ragging; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) In May, 1999, the Government circulated guidelines to all States/UTs, Universities, IITs, IImS and RECs, indicating certain steps to prevent incidents of ragging in educational institutions, for appropriate action. UGC also circulated the report of the UGC Committee to all Universities for curbing the menace of ragging in these institutions. The Committee, *inter-alia*, recommended that the Central/State Governments may enact legislation prohibiting ragging in educational institutions; treating ragging as a cognizable offence and prescribing suitable punishment keeping in view the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

gravity of the offences committed. The relevant recommendations have been effective from 29.1.2000.

Increasing seats in IT-related courses in Karnataka

1481. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested to raise the number of Engineering seats in IT-related courses;

(b) if so, whether AICTE has permitted to increase the number of Engineering seats in IT-related subjects in Karnataka during 2000-2001;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would enhance the IT-related courses in Engineering colleges in Karnataka to encourage students to take up IT-related courses?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has requested the All India Council for Technical Education to increase in intake number of seats in Information Technology related courses.

(b) AICTE, in view of such requests for 2000-2001 from other states as well, has issued advertisements asking engineering colleges having IT-related courses to apply for increase in intake of students within 31.7.2000. AICTE has also issued advertisements asking all engineering colleges having good infrastructure and not having IT-related courses to apply for starting new IT-related courses within 5.8.2000 AICTE will process all these cases on fast track and convey its decision within October, 2000.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.